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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PRC: INTERNAL DEBATE, UNRUFFLED FACADE

CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG SAYS A NUMBER OF FACTORS SUGGEST THE POLITICAL DEBATE CURRENTLY RAGING IN PEKING IS BEING CONDUCTED WITHIN A RATHER CAREFULLY DEFINED FRAMEWORK.

--POSTER ATTACKS ON TENG HSIAO-PING HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED.

--UNLIKE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, THIS CAMPAIGN HAS SO FAR NOT INVOLVED THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY.

--A PRC-ALIGNED EDITOR IN HONG KONG STRESSES THAT,
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EVEN THOUGH HUA'S ACCESSION IS A BLOW TO THE MOD-

ERATES, NIXON'S PRC TRIP IS STILL ON.

CONSULATE GENERAL COMMENT: CONSIDERING THE STRENGTH OF THE PRAGMATISTS, WE FEEL THE STRUGGLE WILL BE LONG BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ALLOWED TO DAMAGE SERIOUSLY THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FABRIC OF THE COUNTRY. (CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 1822 AND 1818, 2/19.)

2. SOVIET SUMMIT: GLORY BE TO THE STATUS QUO

EMBASSY MOSCOW EXPECTS NO SURPRISES OR LEADERSHIP CHANGES TO RESULT FROM THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS, WHICH BEGINS NEXT WEEK.

--BREZHNEV'S HEALTH HAS IMPROVED AND THERE IS NO POLITICAL REASON TO DOUBT HE WILL REMAIN IN CONTROL IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

--PRESUCCESSION MANEUVERING DOES NOT SEEM UNDERWAY ON A SIGNIFICANT SCALE EVEN THOUGH THE RULING GROUP'S AVERAGE AGE IS OVER 65.

--WHILE THERE WILL BE CRITICISM OF ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCES, BREZHNEV CAN RIGHTLY SAY THAT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN HAS NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD.

--THE COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US WILL BE REAFFIRMED, ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE RUMBLINGS ABOUT "ENEMIES OF DETENTE."

EMBASSY COMMENT: BREZHNEV'S BASICALLY NON-INNOVATIVE POLICIES WILL CONTINUE. THE SENIOR OLIGARCHS ARE COMMITTED TO THE COURSE OF THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS AND THEY ARE BASICALLY SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THAT COURSE. (SECRET) MOSCOW 2571 (LIMDIS), 2/19.)

3. PASSING THE HAT FOR EGYPT

SPEAKING TO AMBASSADOR EILTS, FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY CHARACTERIZED AS "STUPID" A US PROPOSAL THAT THE IBRD OR IMF
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TAKE THE LEAD IN ARRANGING FINANCIAL HELP FOR EGYPT. ACCORDING TO FAHMY:

--THE US HAS AN OBLIGATION TO REPAY EGYPT FOR THE POLITICAL RISKS THE GOE TOOK IN AGREEING TO SINAI II.

--THE IBRD AND IMF ARE VIRTUALLY USG INSTITUTIONS AND THE USG SHOULD INSTRUCT THEM TO EXTEND AID.

--LEFT TO HIS OWN DEVICES, MCNAMARA WILL INSIST ON A CONSULTATIVE BOARD, REPRESENTING UNACCEPTABLE OUTSIDE CONTROL OVER EGYPT'S FINANCES.

FAHMY FINALLY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO THE US PROPOSAL TO CON-
VENE A MEETING OF INTERESTED DONOR NATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL)
CAIRO 2185 (LIMDIS), 2/19.)

4. CONCEDING UNESCO TO THE SOVIETS

EMBASSY PARIS SAYS WHAT IS SEEN AS A "PUNISH UNESCO" ATTITUDE IN THE USG GIVES THE USSR A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO STEER THE ORGANIZATION TOWARD SOVIET ENDS. THE EMBASSY THINKS THE SOVIETS WILL USE UNESCO TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONCERN FOR THE THIRD WORLD--ESPECIALLY AFRICA--AND URGES THAT THE DIRECTIONS THE BODY IS TAKING BE VIEWED IN THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF SOVIET AMBITIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 5051, 2/19.) INGERSOLL

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